

A Partner for Good Business

Summary:

Local public health agencies are an important partner to Missouri business and tourism. Working with business to assure that safe food handling, preparation and sanitation protects the business, its employees, and ultimately affects customer satisfaction and their success.

Detailed Stories:

Each year, the Independence Chamber of Commerce hosts SantaCaliGon, a large festival with 200,000 to 300,000 individuals in attendance. This is a major money maker for most of the non-profit agencies in town and over 100 food booths are part of this festival. The Independence City Health Department issues permits and performs inspections to assure safe food handling and preparation practices are being followed. The chamber president recognizes the benefit to business when he stated that the last thing they needed was a food borne illness outbreak. Such an outbreak would ruin the future of the event for many years to come.

Public health protects the tourism industry's interest in assuring the health of visitors to Missouri. Ross Summers, President/CEO, Branson Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau, states "Branson has been one of the top destinations in the U.S. for motorcoach travel over the last two decades. Keeping our visitors safe is important." He recognizes the partnership of the local health department when he says, "Over the years our community has dealt with Norovirus on more than one occasion. Taney County Health Department sent prevention messages to businesses with a focus on the motor coach groups and alerted them of the potential increase in this type of illness. Our health department has actually gone into businesses (theatres, attractions, hotels) and showed the staff how to properly clean to avoid the spread of disease".